

Good News

CONNELLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)

Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

THE MINISTER’S MUSINGS

As Christians, we are the covenant people of God. This relationship isn’t something we often talk about in that way: the contract or covenant that God has made with us. To start the discussion, we’ve begun a sermon series on Covenants – God’s reaching out to his creation including his people and our resultant responsibilities to Him. We’ll cover Adam, Noah, Abraham and Isaac, Moses and the Israelites, and finally Christians. What does it mean to be God’s covenant people? to be His children?

It’s really something to understand that a God who is powerful enough to create the entire universe can be bothered with our every day concerns. But that is the message of Jesus:

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him... ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.. Matthew 6:8, 31-33.

That’s a radical message in today’s world. Back to school shopping has begun, and that will move right into the marketing for ~~Commerce Day~~ the Christmas season. We’re told to want the things of this world; and not just the needs of adequate food, clothing and shelter. We’re taught, from the day we first sit in front of the TV watching Nickelodeon, to define ourselves by what we have. We are so much more than that. Each of us is made in the image of God, His creation, designed to be complete only in relationship with Him.

So take a step back from the marketing machine. As you head into the fall, back to school, back to your “normal” schedule, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness instead of all the other things that clamor for your attention. The Apostle James tells us: “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” (James 4:8) Make weekly worship a priority. Come to Sunday School: we have a special activity planned for the kickoff on Sept 13, the Fellowship Class is ongoing, and there will be another Adult class beginning a DVD study. Join us as together we seek God and His Kingdom.

Rev Suzanne

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Church Event Calendar	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Faith Finders and Up Close and Personal	3
Sunday School and Apple Dumpling News	4
EPC Information	5
Fellowship Class	6

CHURCH CALENDAR

FALL 2015 EVENTS



September

- Sept. 5** Ladies' Lunch 1pm at Bud Murphy's
- Sept. 9** Faith Finders Kickoff
- Sept. 13** Sunday School Kickoff
Church Picnic—at noon
(following worship)
- Sept. 14** Session meeting, 7pm
- Sept. 28** Committee meetings,
7pm

October

- Oct. 3** Ladies' Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy's
- Oct. 4** Communion Sunday
- Oct. 8** Apple Dumpling Festival
- Oct. 12** Session meeting, 7pm
- Oct. 25** Harvest Home Dedication
- Oct. 26** Committee meeting,
7pm
- Oct. 28** Children's Halloween Party

November

- Nov. 7** Sight and Sound Trip
Ladies' Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy's
- Nov. 9** Session meeting, 7pm
- Nov. 15** Shoebox Dedication
- Nov. 18** Faith Finders Turkey Dinner, 6pm
- Nov. 23** Nativity drop off
Committee meetings,
7pm
- Nov. 26** Thanksgiving
- Nov. 29** Communion Sunday
First Sunday in Advent

Birthdays



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 9 Kayla Hann Sept. 11 Nellie Langdon Sept. 12 Rose Towsey Sept. 13 Doris Nedley Sept. 15 Bobby Groff and Coalby McNair Sept. 16 Mark Courtley Sept. 29 Dustyn Pastors Oct. 2 Eric Luckey Oct. 3 Nicoal McNair Oct. 6 Rick Luckey Oct. 8 Jack Crislip Oct. 9 Shelly Hann | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 15 Jackson Johnson Oct. 19 Debbie Mullaney Oct. 26 Suzanne Zampella Oct. 28 Caitlyn Anderson Oct. 29 Deanna Brooks Nov. 1 Olivia Christopher Nov. 7 Alaina Christopher Nov. 9 Elle Crislip Nov. 19 Marilee McFadden, Barb Striner and Scott Driscoll Nov. 26 Alma Courtley Nov. 28 John Arzbacher and Rylee Johnson |
|--|--|

Anniversaries



- Sept. 2 Deanna and Scott Brooks
- Oct. 2 Colleen and Dale Kooser
- Oct. 11 Stacie and Nick Tarr
Courtney and Eric Luckey
- Oct. 12 Melissa and Jon Ferencuha
- Oct. 17 Gail and Lawrence Schmidle
- Oct. 29 Marilee and Gene McFadden
- Nov. 14 Joan and Chris Conn
- Nov. 22 Carol and Jeff Kelley

Members and Loved Ones who have joined the Church Eternal

Viola Comisky

Faith Finders Resumes September 9th

Faith Finders is our mid-week youth program for school aged children. We meet every Wednesday evening for fellowship, food and fun.

5:30 pm—Dinner

6:00 pm—Programs

Please bring your children to help strengthen their faith and make lasting friendships.

Faith Finders will complete its Fall session with a Family Dinner on Wednesday November 18th for all Faith Finders, their families and our Church Family. Nancy Luckey always makes it a special night with her innovative games and decorations, so please consider attending.

Don't forget to sign up for the Sight and Sound trip to Lancaster on November 7th— see Nancy Luckey for details.



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL JOANNE AND CHUCK SCHMIDT

One of the expressions at the church that you will hear most often when there is a problem to solve is, "Ask Chuck". From everything to cleaning the kitchen and even painting the kitchen floor to hauling in supplies for Apple Dumplings, you know that Chuck and family are involved. Chuck has become our main man at Apple Dumpling Time, and Joanne, "Gigi", is involved in distributing Apple Dumplings to our customers during the time between the Morning and Evening shifts all the entire three weeks of Apple Dumpling Time.

Chuck is a native of Frank, PA which is in Elizabeth Twp. near West Newton. He is a graduate of Elizabeth Forward High School. He also took classes at CCAC, Community College of Allegheny County.

Having served in the U. S. Army, Chuck retired in 2003 after 28 years in Logistics and Supply Administration as a Sergeant 1st Class. Next, he spent 11 years as a State Corrections Officer at S.C.I. Greene.

Joanne is a native of White Oak, and a graduate of McKeesport High School. She has an Associate Degree in Art which is very easy to believe because she is such a talented person. Gigi is very involved in arts and crafts projects. I have several pins that she has created over the years. Shopping is another of her favorite things to do. Much of her time, especially during the school year, is taken up with the pleasant task of caring for her grandson, Briar, who is three years old.

Chuck and Joanne have three children: Nicole, a speech therapist at Dunbar Twp. School, Michael who works for C R H Catering Company, and Matthew who is a machinist at M L P Steel in Scottdale, and of course, grandson, Briar. Chuck said that he enjoys hunting, fishing and golfing with his sons.

Chuck currently is serving on Session and is Chair of the Building Committee which is now replacing the church doors, an awesome job. He also serves as a liturgist, teaches and assists at Vacation Bible School, helps out at Faith Finders or anywhere else where help is needed. We are grateful that Chuck and Joanne are part of our Church family.



A NEW BEGINNING - THANK GOD

Children are vital to a growing and healthy church. A Bible based Sunday School curriculum is necessary as part of our youth's education. On Sunday, September 13, the Connellsville Presbyterian Church is launching our new Sunday School season with a "Surprise Family Activity" followed by our Annual Church Picnic after Worship.

So parents, please make every effort to have your children, pre-school to high school, here at the Church by **9:30 AM** for this coming together to celebrate being Christians and glorifying God with our praise. We have enough children in our congregation that we could have several classes that are age appropriate. There are teachers willing and eager to instruct your children. Please bring your children so they can learn more about God, the Bible and our identity as Christians.

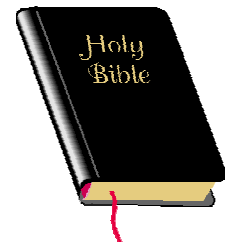


Regular Worship hours resume on Sunday September 6th

Adult Sunday School: 9:45 am

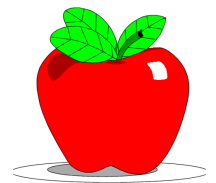
Children's Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship: 11:00 am



Annual Apple Dumpling Festival

On Thursday, October 8, 2015 our church basement will be full of wonderful smells for our Annual Apple Dumpling Festival. It's open to all, not just our church members. We will have a special price of \$5.00 for an apple dumpling, ice cream and beverage. Sandwiches will also be available at a reasonable price. Extra dumplings will be available for those who would like to take some home. This is a wonderful "Outreach" into our community and to invite people to worship with us.



November Apple Dumpling Sale

Once again, we will have a November sale of Apple Dumplings for Thanksgiving! You can place your orders for yummy apple dumplings between **November 9th—18th** and pick up dates will be announced in November. Please tell your friends that the church does have Apple Dumplings available for the holidays.

Shoebox Ministry

Connellsville Presbyterian Church's annual Shoebox Ministry will be culminating our efforts on November 15th, with the dedication of the shoe boxes at Sunday Worship. Please continue to bring in small gifts for children and place them in the basket in the Narthex. Suggested gifts include individually wrapped hard candy, paper tablets, toothbrushes and toothpaste, coloring books, crayons, soap, washcloths, small toys, stuffed animal and balls. If you don't have time to shop, consider donating money to cover the \$7.00 shipping for each box. Let's join together to share our many blessings with children in need.





EPC

*A Global Movement of
Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

Frequently Asked Questions about the EPC

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE EPC? We are unique among American Presbyterians with our self-conscious attempt to balance essential and non-essential matters within a confessional framework. We are unified in our commitment to the essentials of the historic Christian faith taught in the Bible, but allow liberty of conscience on those matters which are not so plain in—or central to—the Bible’s teaching. As of February 2015, we have more than 550 churches with approximately 145,000 members (and growing!).

WHAT IS THE EPC'S VIEW OF THE BIBLE? We believe that the Bible is fully inspired by God the Holy Spirit to lead people to a saving knowledge of God and to help them understand their world rightly. By its very nature, the Bible is infallible. It is the supreme authority that orders our doctrine and mission.

WHAT ARE THE EPC'S VALUES? We are Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional.

To be **Presbyterian** is to be governed according to the pattern of elders seen in the Old and New Testaments. We are ruled neither by bishops in a hierarchical model, nor by members in a congregational model. Biblically qualified elders are recognized through congregational election and, along with ministers, rule the church corporately. It also means being connected in mutual accountability and responsibility. Just as individual Christians are connected to one another as members of the body of Christ, individual congregations are connected under Christ as the great Head of the Church.

To be **“Reformed”** means several things. Historically, it means that we trace our roots to the Reformation, when John Calvin and others led the movement to reform the Church according to Scripture. Theologically, it means belief in the absolute sovereignty of God and that the highest good is God’s glory. This historical and theological heritage is often expressed in the “*solas*” of the Reformation: God’s grace alone as the only way to be reconciled to God, faith alone as the only means of receiving God’s grace, Christ alone as the ground of God’s saving grace, Scripture alone as the only infallible authority for belief, and God’s glory alone as the ultimate purpose for the lives of men and women.

To be **“Evangelical”** means to believe in the importance of sharing the good news that through Jesus Christ the kingdom of God has been inaugurated, freeing people from the guilt and power of sin through personal faith and repentance. We express this priority on evangelism by stating it in our governing documents as the first work of the church. This priority is evidenced in our emphasis on church planting and world missions.

To be **“Missional”** means operating with the belief that ministry does not begin at the top with a denominational hierarchy, but with the local church—and that each local church is to be pursuing its particular part in God’s mission of reconciling the world to Himself in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). Presbyteries and the General Assembly have an important role to play in identifying, equipping, and supporting leaders for missional churches and are key links in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and biblical standards.

DOES THE EPC BELIEVE IN WORLD MISSIONS? Absolutely! Our World Outreach Committee oversees the sending of more than 125 missionaries to nearly 30 different countries. Some of our best and brightest members are serving with the generous support of our congregations because we believe that the gospel must be proclaimed to all nations.

HOW DOES THE EPC COMPARE TO OTHER PRESBYTERIAN DENOMINATIONS? We lie in the middle area of a continuum of American Presbyterian denominations. We believe in historic Christianity as taught in Scripture, thus looking to the Bible as our guide on moral issues and believing in the reality of sin, salvation, and judgment. At the same time, we want to give evidence of what we consider a mark of the true church—loving fellowship—by holding our convictions with charity toward others, and charitably allowing a diversity of views within the EPC on non-essential issues. Thus we identify positively with those Presbyterian denominations which hold to biblical authority.

HOW ARE CHURCHES REPRESENTED IN THE EPC? Every church has the right to send representatives to presbytery (regional body) and General Assembly (national) meetings. Further, our form of government attempts to achieve a two-to-one ratio between lay leaders (ruling elders) and ministers at those levels. This provision helps keep the EPC from being a clergy dominated denomination.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLEPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

CONNELLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
701 S. PITTSBURGH ST.
CONNELLSVILLE PA 15425

ON THE ROAD WITH THE FELLOWSHIP CLASS

Summer is such a joyful season and the time to go on outings. The Fellowship Class likes to take off while the weather is cooperative. Our first outing took us to Sandhill Berries for "Lunch with Amy". Eating out in the open, under the trees surrounded by flowers, is a treat especially while enjoying a delicious chicken salad croissant beautifully served with fresh berries for which they are known. Amy, a former student of mine, even throws in an edible flower to the mix. We sat for hours and enjoyed the view, the food and the company. After a while, you might indulge in a piece of raspberry pie or a raspberry sundae.

In July, we went off to Jennerstown to see "The Ladies of the Church Basement, A Mighty Fortress is our Church Basement". From the title, you know why our group attended this production. We laughed and saw ourselves in some of the scenes. Then we headed out for an early dinner at the Coal Miners Cafe in Jennerstown. We had never been there before. It was good, and then we stopped at the Country Cottage in New Centerville for dessert. The homemade pie is amazing. An outing is only as good as the food. After all that food, we headed home on the scenic route. We do live in a beautiful area!

In September, we are planning to return to Jennerstown for "Forever Plaid", and enjoy the fall foliage while the weather is still good. And I'm sure that we will find another great place to eat. See you next summer!

